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World.

THE MODERATE DRINKER. By Charles W. Ellot, LLD., President of Harvard University.

(This is an extract from a recent speech by President Ellot before the Massachusetts No-License league, which is here reproduced from his monuscropt, by his special permission. The extract is so significant in its meaning, and so essentially the result of careful investigation and experience, that the messace it southers are presented.

that the message it contains assumes broughai importance.—The Editors.)

I have been all my life what is called a moderate drinker—that is to say, I have used beer and wine on occasion, though never habitually—and I have never experienced any ill-effects whatever in my own person ill-effects whatever in my own person from aither hear never experienced any fil-effects whatever in my own person from either beer
or wine. Again, I have always recognized the truth of the Bible saying
about wine, that "It maketh giad the
heart of a man." There is no doubt
of that fact; nevertheless, it may be
doubted whether it be expedient that
the heart of a man should be giad in
that way. Frequent observation has
made me sure that alcoholle drinks
have a tendency to cheer people up
temporarily, and make them folly and
noisy, but the doubt about the expediency of that kind of elevation has
gained on me as years have passed.

gained on me as years have passed.

The recent researches in physiolog:
and medicine tend strongly to show that even the moderate drinking of al-chor's inexpedient. As a result of ex-perience the old practice in regard to chaits inexpendent. As a result of experience the old practice in regard to the use of spirits has been absolutely abandoned. No longer are men who are to be exposed to cold, heat, fatigue, or hardships of any sort, prepared or braced for such encounters by any form of alcohol. It used to be considered essential that a sailor in the merchent marine or in the navy should be braced every day for his archous work by grog; but now grog has been abolished in our navy years and is no longer served in well conducted ships of the merchant marine. The result is a semonstration that the rough, exposed life of a sailor was not really helped by the moderate us of alcohol: in truth it was injured. No captain of an occan liner exer supports himself now against the herce exposures of the bridge by means of alcohol, its may take her teacher. now against the fierce exposures of the bridge by means of slooted, die may rike hot tea, coffee or lemonade to help him been warm and awake; but he never broses himself when exposed to terrible weather by means of alconol.

It is just so in regard to stremens intellectual labors, it was long supposed that nobody could bear the labors of a prime miristor of England—in the house of commons late every night and in Downing street during long hours every day—unless he was supported by one or two bottless of portner day. Many famous men have lived that laborious life under such stimula-

or day. Many famous men have live hat laborious life under such stimula that laborious life under such stimula-tion; but all such practices are now absolutely abandoned. It is well known that alcohol, even if moderately used, does not quicken the action of the mind, nor enable one botter to sup-port hard mental labor. On the con-trary, all intellectual workers find al-cohol a drag on their mental process; and if they set accusomed to working on alcohol they are apt to offset its ef-fects by an immodreate use of tea or coffee. Hard mental workers who use the double stimulation of wine and tea he double stimulation of wine and tear coffee are admittedly burning the andle at both ends. On this subject—the value of alcoholic drinks to men graged in intellectual labor—I have

world, some German and

new pays gical laboratories of the learned world, some German and some Americas, have supplied valuable evidence on this subject, and their results are plain and all go one way. For instance the effect of a moderate use of alcohol on electic whose principal function is to add up columns of figures, has been thoroughly studied. If such a clerk drinks during the day a moderate amount of beer or wine it has been proved that he cannot add as well the next day as if he had taken no alcohol the transport of persons, so large as to establish the psychological fact.

An interesting line of experiment has been on what is called the time reaction. By time reaction is meant the An interesting line of experiment has been on what is called the time reaction. By time reaction is meant the interval that elapses between hearing a sudden noise, or seeling a flash of light, and putting the innected of the hand and arm in motion to touch a given spot or object. The signal enters the brain through the eye or ear, and the will then sets the motor nerves of the arms and fingers at work to make the indicated motion. In different individuals this interval varies much. Now it has been demonstrated that alcohol—even in the most moderate quantity—affects unfavorably the time reaction—that is, it solws down the whole nervous action of the man who takes it, and this slowing effect lasts for hours and even days.

Some years ago I had occasion to learn about the actual time reaction of a well known puglist. He was expecting to fight in a city at some distance from Boston. The day of the fight had been fixed, but the puglilst had been on a succession of sprees. This trainer could not control him, and he had been under the influence of alcohol a good part of his time. He was brought to Cambridge and his time re-

cohol a good part of his time. He was brought to Cambridge and his time rebreught to Cambridge and his time reaction was tested. It proved to be
slow. Now this man had always been
famous for his quickness of eye and
fist. A prize fighter has need of a very
short time reaction. He must see by
the motion of his adversary's fist just
where his adversary is intending to
strike, and be must put his own arm
quickly in the right place to fend of
the coming blow. A slow time reaction
will make success impossible for a
boxer, a fencer, or a runner of short
races. The effect of alcohol on the
time reaction of the buman being has
now been tested carefully in hundreds
of cases, and there is no question about
the ill effect of alcohol even in very
moderate doses. That means that alcomoderate doses. That means that alco-bel, even It moderate doses, diminshes the efficiency of the skilled workman, or, in other words, makes him incapa-ble of doing his best in the work of

the day.

Benjamin Franklin made a very early observation of this subject when he
first worked, as a very young man, in an English composing room. Drinking no beer he found he could easily sur-pass the English workmen in the printing office, and he attributed his greater capacity to abstinence from beer, which was the favorite and habitual drink of his fellow workmen. So I say that the recent progress in medical science largely accomplished through animal control of the say that the second progress in medical science. largely accomplished through animal experimentation, has satisfied me that the habitual use of alcohol, even in moderate quantities, is inexpedient because it lowers the nervous and intellectual power of the human being. If a man is leading an intellectual life, if he be engaged in work which interests him keenly, stirs him, and requires the active use of his powers of thought, then he will inevitably feel the rotarding and deterforming effect of this drug.—Ladies' Home Journal.

The Fourth of March Bible. self with a new Rible on which Mr. Taft may be sworn in as president. The oath is administered by the chief justice and the cierk of the court is always prepared with a new Bible, should the president-elect not have provided himself with one of his own. Usually he does Grover Cleveland was sworn in on the one his mother gave him. It was a tiny Bible and by way of contrast huge seemed the Bible William McKinley used. It was a large family Bible and one of the largest of not the largest ever used to swear in a president. Mr. Roosevelt was sworn in on the Bible he used to take the oath of office as governor of New York.—John Lorance in Boston Ad-York.-John Lorance in Boston Ad-

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